



## Quarterly Newsletter December 2023 – February 2024

### President's Message

Welcome to the holiday season. I hope all of you had a relaxing and enjoyable Thanksgiving and wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Here are some important items that I want to mention for the December to February time frame of this newsletter.

We have the annual membership meeting coming up in January. The date is Tuesday, January 9th, at 7:00 PM in the Ironwood Golf Course clubhouse. The agenda for the meeting has not been completed at this time, but will include the election of four Ironwood residents to two-year terms on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for one of these spots, please let any current Board member know by December 11th so your name can be included on the ballot. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find short bios of residents currently running for the Board. Watch the "Current News" section on the [iho.org](http://iho.org) website in late December for any additional information regarding the annual meeting.

In late December, residents will receive their proxy, ballot and 2024 dues notice. Under the bylaws, residents must have their 2024 dues paid by January 9th in order to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

With winter coming, we may encounter some snow in the next three months, and I encourage all residents to make sure the sidewalks are shoveled so students can get to their buses and walkers do not have to walk in the street. As a good neighbor, I would encourage residents who do not have a sidewalk on their side of the street, like me, to occasionally help their neighbor across the street shovel their sidewalk. Also, remember that if the Town declares a snow emergency, there is no parking on either side of the street in Ironwood to aid in snow removal.

### **President's Message (continued):**

I would like to thank residents who have brought concerns about covenant violations or the general appearance of the subdivision to the attention of the Board. Some issues take longer than others to get resolved, but I assure you that the Board works very hard to resolve your concerns as quickly as possible.

If you are going to be doing some entertaining during the holiday season, please advise your guests of the proper side of the street to park on. We do not want anyone getting a parking ticket while visiting Ironwood and, as always, we need to make sure streets are open for the flow of two-way traffic and, if necessary, emergency vehicles.

Finally, I have decided not to run for re-election to the Board of Directors. It has been my pleasure to serve as a Board member and to run the association's website for the past 18 years. I have agreed to stay on as webmaster for up to one more year while the Board finds a new person to maintain the website. If anyone is interested in taking over this position, please contact any Board member.

David Brown, President

### **Vice President's Message**

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed time with family. Christmas and New Year's are right around the corner. It's hard to believe how fast time marches on.

A big welcome to all our new residents who have moved into Ironwood since our last newsletter. We hope you all enjoy Ironwood and your new home as much as we have.

As the year comes to an end I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our Board members. A BIG thanks to you all for your hard work. Our President, David Brown, has decided to retire from the Board after many great years of leadership. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU DAVID!!! David has agreed to remain on as our webmaster, for which we are very grateful. David, you have done an excellent job of leadership and will be very missed. All the rest of the Board members have also done an excellent job serving our neighborhood and keeping Ironwood the most desirable subdivision in Blo/Normal.

Thanks again to all who have donated to the food pantry over the last year. The drop off box is still located in the Ironwood clubhouse between the restrooms. All donations are greatly appreciated!!

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year to all!!!  
Linda Rheeling, V.P.



## **IHOA Board of Director Candidates' Bios:**

The following individuals are seeking positions on the board in the January election:

### **Mel Brown**

My name is Mel Brown. I have lived in Ironwood since 2014, and in the Bloomington-Normal community for over fifty years. I am a graduate of ISU and worked at State Farm in various financial roles for 36 years, retiring in 2006.

I was a member of the 2020 By-laws Revision Committee, and currently serve as Communications Chair on the board.

I am interested in serving the Ironwood community as a board member in order to preserve and improve the wonderful standard of living we all enjoy. I am a strong believer in upholding the by-laws and covenants. As a golfer myself, I also understand the importance of having a mutually beneficial relationship between the IHOA and golf course management. I would be honored to continue to serve you on the board. Thank you.

### **Merritt Burns**

My name is Merritt Burns. I am seeking to become a stable and consistent voice within this association. My family and I have lived in Ironwood since the Spring of 2021. Our kids attend Prairieland Elementary and we have found this neighborhood to be a wonderful home and community for our family. My wife and a few of our neighbors share that enjoyment of the neighborhood and celebrate it every July in their sponsoring of the neighborhood block party at the golf course.

Ever since my undergraduate years at Illinois State, which afforded me a career in education, I have thoroughly enjoyed Bloomington-Normal. The last seven years I have worked as an administrator for a nearby school district. My career in education will lend me well to serving on the board as I will hear all of the voices evenly and fairly as I work to make decisions in the best interest of the community. Anytime there is a concern I promise that your voice will be heard, however your concerns may not always yield the result that you seek. At the end of the day, we all share the desire and vision for this neighborhood to be the best version of itself for ourselves, our families and future homebuyers.

### **Keith Palmgren**

Hi, my name is Keith Palmgren, and I have served on the IHOA Board of Directors since January 2021 and most recently as your beautification chair member. I am asking for your vote to continue on the board and as to my chair role. I have lived in the Ironwood Subdivision for over 31 years and in that time have seen many changes. My goal, as always, is to make the best decisions for all Ironwood residents. I would appreciate your vote. Thank you.

## IHOA Board of Director Candidates' Bios (continued):

### Linda Rheeling

My name is Linda Rheeling and I'm running for reelection to the IHOA board of directors. My husband Roger and I moved to Normal and Ironwood 31 years ago because of a job change. We moved here as empty nesters but found many young and wonderful families that have welcomed us into their circle with open arms. We love Ironwood and all the wonderful friends and neighbors that we have had over the years. Over the years that I have served on the board I have served in various positions: secretary, covenant chair, president a few times and currently vice president. As a board member I have tried to remain consistent and to uphold the bylaws and covenants as they are written. I hope you will consider voting for me again. I look forward to serving you all again. Thank you.



## Reminders:

### *Holiday Collection*

- Household Garbage and Recycling (in Town carts) **is** collected on all Holidays except Christmas Day.
- **Bulky waste, brush and landscape waste will not** be collected on holidays when Town offices are closed.
- Residents may dispose of their real (non-artificial) Christmas tree by placing it at the curb for collection on your regularly scheduled waste collection day. The tree must be bare, no decorations attached and not in a plastic bag.
- Missed leaf collection? Leaves can be brought to the Landscape Waste Drop-Off Site at 1301 Warriner St. The Drop-Off Site is open year round to Normal residents.

### *School Winter Break Dates*

- Unit 5 - December 22 - January 8, classes resume January 9
- Dist. 87 - December 22 - January 7, classes resume January 8
- ISU - December 15 - January 15, classes resume January 16
- IWU - December 16 - January 9, classes resume January 10



## Helpful Resources:

### **IHOA Website:**

The IHOA website (ihoa.org) contains a wealth of information for homeowners. Included on the website are: covenants, by-laws, fence guidelines, board information, meeting minutes, newsletters, and useful links. Please take time to explore this handy resource.

### **Notify Normal:**

Notify Normal is a free mass communication system. Notify Normal allows residents and community members to be notified by the Town of Normal in the event of emergency situations and receive information about community events and Town of Normal services.

Notify Normal can target specific geographical areas or streets in the Town of Normal. The system delivers notifications via text to wireless phones and emails or calls and leaves messages, if necessary.

#### How to enroll:

The Town of Normal encourages residents to enroll with a managed account\* through the [Notify Normal Community Notification Enrollment website](#). To participate, you will be asked to provide basic contact information (e.g., name, address, primary and/or secondary phone number(s) and email address, if desired).

Text to enroll by texting "NotifyNormal" to 99411. An auto-reply SMS message containing the enrollment link is provided to mobile users in the form of an URL. Once the URL is selected, you will be directed to the enrollment page to register to receive alerts.

\*You may also choose to enroll as a guest without creating a user name and password. If you choose this enrollment option, you can select to receive emergency, general and/or weather-related notifications. When enrolling as a guest, you will not be offered the option to receive alert notification messages related to Events, Parks, Services or Streets. If you wish to receive these special alert notification types, text any of these keywords (Events, Parks, Services or Streets) to 99411. Doing so will enroll your guest account in the alert group related to the keyword you texted. If you wish to enroll in all four notification types, send four texts, one with each keyword listed, to 99411.

No matter how you enroll, your information remains private.

## **IHOA Board of Directors**

President: David Brown . . . . . 309-451-5829  
Vice-President: Linda Rheeling . 309-454-2941  
Secretary: Jeff Woodall . . . . . 309-706-2249  
Treasurer: JoEllen Bahnsen. . . . 309-454-3053  
Board Member: Mel Brown. . . . . 309-451-5601  
Board Member: Keith Palmgren. 309-531-9605  
Board Member: Susan Parrent. . 309-452-1934

## **Important Telephone Numbers**

ECIA Agency on Aging	(800) 888-4456
Ironwood Golf Course	454-9620
Normal City Manager	454-9503
Normal Fire Department	454-9610
Normal Inspections Department	454-9581
Normal Parks & Recreation	454-9540
Normal Police Department	888-5030
Normal Public Works	454-9571
Normal Water Department	454-9563
Town of Normal	454-2444

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season  
from your Ironwood Board of Directors!!

